



By the Lord Deputie and Councell.

¶ An Act of State touching Beggers and wandring persons.

HENRIE FALKLAND.



Of the suppressing of Rogues, Vagabonds, wandring and idle persons, and sturdie Beggers, it is hereby ordered by the Lord Deputie and Councell, And wee doe hereby straightly charge and commaund, that the Justices of Peace in everie Countie, Citie and Towne-corporate, within this Realme of Ireland, assembled at any quarter Sessions of the Peace, within the same Countie, Citie, Borough, or Towne-corporate, or the more part of them, shall on the said, and before the Twentieth day of October next ensuing the date hereof, set downe Orders to erect, or cause to be erected one or more houses of Correction within their severall Counties, Cities, Boroughes, and Townes-corporate: For the doing and performing whereof, and for the providing of Stockes of money, and all other things necessarie for the same, and for rasing and gathering of the same, and for correction and punishment of offenders thitherto to be committed, such order as the same Justices, or the more part of them, shall from time to time, take, reforme, or set downe in any their said quarter Sessions in that behalf, shall be of force, and duely performed and put in execution. And wee doe hereby further order and decree, That all idle persons going about in any countie, eyther begging or loytring, and all petty Chapmen, Crap-marchants, common-Rymers, or Bards, wandring abroad, and all wandring persons, and common-labourers, being persons able in body using loytring and refusing to worke for such reasonable wages as is tared, or commonly given in such parts, where such persons doe or shall happen to dwell, or abide (not having living otherwise to maintaine themselves) and all persons delivered out of Tayles that begge for their fees, or otherwise doe travell, begging without lawfull licence under the hands of two Justices of the Peace, shall be taken adjudged and deemed Rogues, Vagabonds, and sturdie Beggers, and shall sustaine such paine and punishment, as by this Act of State is in that behalf appointed.

And wee doe hereby further order and decree, that everie person, which by this present Act and Proclamation is declared to be a Rogue, Vagabond, or wandring or idle person, or sturdie Begger, which shall be at any time after the said twentieth day of October next coming taken begging, vagrant, wandring, or misordering themselves in any part of this Kingdome, shall upon their apprehension by the appointment of any Justice of the Peace, Constable, Head-borough, or Tythingman of the same Countie, Hundred, Parish, or Tything, where such person shall be taken (the Constable, Tythingman, or Head-borough) being assisted therein with the aduise of the Minister, and one other of that Parish, be stripped naked from the middle upwards, and shall be openly whipped, untill his or her bodie be bloudie, And shall be forthwith sent from Parish to Parish, by the Officers of everie the same, the next straightway to the Parish where hee or shee was borne, if the same may be knowne by the parties confession or otherwise. And if the same be not knowne, then to the Parish where hee or shee last dwelt before the same punishment by the space of one whole yeare, there to put him or her selfe to labour as a true subject ought to doe, or not being knowne where he or she was borne or last dwelt, then to the Parish through which he or she last passed without punishment. After which whipping, the same person shall have a Testimoniall subscribed with the hand, & sealed with the seale of the same Justice of the Peace, Constable, Head-borough, or Tythingman, and the Minister of the same Parish, or of any two of them, testifying that the same person hath bene punished according to this Ordinance, & mentioning the day and place of his or her punishment, and the place whereunto such person is limited to goe, and by what time the said person is limited to passe thither at his perill: And if the said person through his or her default doe not accomplish the Order appointed by the said Testimoniall, then to be forthwith taken & whipped, and so as often as any default shall be found in him or her, contrarie to the foene of this our Act and Proclamation in everie place to be whipped, till such person be repayed to the place limited, The substance of which Testimoniall shall be registred by the Minister of that Parish in a Booke to be provided for that purpose, as he or they will answer the contrarie at their perills, And the partie so whipped and not knowne where hee or shee was borne or last dwelt by the space of a yeare, shall by the Officers of the said Village, where hee or shee so last past without punishment, be conveyed to the house of correction of the limit wherein the said Village standeth, or to the common Tayle of that Countie or place, there to remaine and be employed in worke, untill hee or shee shall be placed in some service, and so to continue by the space of one yeare, or not being able of bodie, untill hee or shee shall be placed to remaine in some Almshouse in the same Countie or place.

Provided alwayes, and it is hereby ordered and decreed, that if any of the said Rogues shall appeare to be dangerous to the inferiour sort of people where they shall be taken, or otherwise be such as will not be reformed of their roguish kinde of life, by the former provisions of this Act and Proclamation, That in everie such case it shall, and may be lawfull to the said Justices of the limit, where any such Rogue shall be taken, or any two of them, whereof one to be of the Copyn to commit that Rogue to the house of correction, or otherwise to the Tayle of the Countie, there to remaine untill their next quarter Sessions to be holden in that Countie: And then such of the same Rogues so committed, as by the Justices of the Peace then and there present, or the more part of them shall be thought fit not to be delivered, shall and may lawfully by the same Justices, or the more part of them be banished out of this Realme, and at the charges of the Countie shall be conveyed unto such parts beyond the Seas, as shall be at any time hereafter for that purpose assigned by the Lord Deputie or other chiefe Governour and Councell of this Kingdome for the time being, or by any sixe or more of them, whereof the Lord Deputie or other chiefe Governour for the time being to be one: And if any such Rogue so banished as aforesaid, shall returne againe into any part of this Realme, without lawfull licence or warrant so to doe, then to be delivered to, or apprehended by the Provost-marshal, who is to procede with him, or them in the courts of Marshall-law.

And Wee doe further order and decree, that if in any Towne, Parish or Village, the Constable, Tythingman or Head-borough be negligent, and doe not his or their best endeavour as for the apprehension of such Vagabound, Rogue, wandring or idle person, or sturdie Begger which there shall be found, contrarie to the forme of this present Ordinance, and to cause euerie of them to be punished, and conueyed according to the true meaning hereof, that then the said Constable, Tythingman, or Head-borough, shall be punished by the Iustices of the Peace at the quarter Sessions, as persons remisse and negligent in the execution of their Office: And also if any person or persons, doe in any wise disturbe, or lett the execution of this Act and Proclamation, or any part thereof concerning the punishment, or conueying of Rogues, Vagabounds, wandring or idle persons, or sturdie Beggers, or the reliefe, or setting of poore impotent persons in any manner of wise, or make rescues against any Officers, or persons authorized by this present Act and Proclamation, for the due execution of any the premises, the same person so offending shall be bound to the good behaviour, and shall undergoe such further punishment by imprisonment, as the Iustices of Peace assembled at any quarter Sessions, or to the maior part of them shall be thought fit and convenient.

And Wee doe hereby further order and decree, that no person or persons, hauing charge in any voyage in passing from any parts beyond the Seas, doe wittingly or willingly bring, or conuey, or suffer to be brought or conueyed in any Vessel, or Boate, from or out of any parts beyond the Seas, into this kingdome, any Vagabound, Rogue, wandring or idle person or Begger, or any such as shall be forced or verie like to liue by begging within this Realme of Ireland being borne beyond the Seas, as he and they will incur the penaltie of five pound English, the one moiety thereof to be to his Paeslie, the other to the partie informing with imprisonment: and such other punishment as the Lord Deputie and Councell for the time being shall be thought fit for such contempt. And if any such Rogue, Vagabound, wandring or idle person be already, or shall at any time hereafter be set on land, or shall come into any part of this kingdome of Ireland, the same after he or shee shall be punished as aforesaid, shall be conueyed to the next Port or Parish, in or neere which they were landed or first came, in such sort as Rogues are appointed to be by this present Act, and Proclamation, And from thence to be transported at the common charge of the Countie where they were set on land, into those parts from whence they came or were brought. And that euerie Constable, Head-borough, and Tythingman, neglecting the due performance thereof shall be punished by imprisonment at the discretion of the Iustices of Peace assembled at any quarter Session, as to them, or the maior part of them shall be thought fit and convenient, and tenne shillings English for euerie such offence, the one moiety to be to his Paeslie, the other to the informer, which penaltie is to be payd by him or them so offending before their enlargement.

Provided alwayes, that the Iustices of Peace within any Countie of this Realme shall not intermit or enter into any Citie, Borough or Towne-corporate wherebe any Justice or Iustices of the Peace for any such Citie, Borough or Towne-corporate for the execution of any branch, article or sentence of this our Act and Proclamation, so, or concerning any offence, matter or cause, growing or arising within the precincts, liberties, or iurisdiccions of such Citie, Borough or Towne-corporate, but that it may and shall be lawfull to the Justice, and Iustices of the Peace, Mayors, Bayliffes, and other head-officers of those Cities, Boroughes, and Townes-corporate where there be such Iustices of the Peace, to proceede to the execution of this Act and Proclamation within the precinct and compasse of their liberties, in such manner and forme, as the Iustices of the Peace in any countie may or ought to doe within the same Countie by vertue of this our Act and Proclamation, any thing therein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

And Wee doe hereby further order and decree, that any two or more Iustices of the Peace within all the said severall Counties, Cities, Boroughes, or Townes-corporate, whereof one to be of the Quorum, shall haue full power by authoritie of this present Act of State, to heare & determine all causes that shall grow or come in question by reason of this Act, other then such as are formerly set downe, to be determined in the quarter Sessions.

Provided alwayes neuertheless, that euerie sea-sauing man suffering shipwacke, not hauing wherewith to relieue himselfe in his trauels homewards, but hauing a Testimoniall under the hand of some Justice of the Peace, of or neere the place where he landed, setting downe the place and time, when, and where he landed, and the place of the parties dwelling or birth, unto which he is to passe, and a convenient time therein to be limited for his passage, shall and may without incurring the danger and penaltie of this Act of State, in the vsuall wayes directly to the place, unto which hee is directed to passe, and within the time of, in such his Testimoniall limited for his passage, aske and receive, such reliefe as shall be necessarie, in and for his passage.

Provided also that this Act of State, nor any thing herein contained, shall extend to any Children under the age of seven yeares, nor to any such glasse men as shall be of good behaviour, and doe trauell in or through any Countie without begging, hauing licence for their traueilling under the hands and seales of three Iustices of the Peace of the same Countie where they trauell, whereof the one to be of the Quorum.

And lastly Wee doe hereby order and decree, that this our Act of State and Proclamation shall be proclaimed in the next quarter Sessions in euerie Countie, and in such other Market-Townes or places, as by the more part of the Iustices of the Peace in the said Sessions shall be agreed and appointed, This our said Act of State to endure to the end of the first Session of the next Parliament. And Wee doe hereby require all Iustices of Peace in euerie Countie, Citie and Towne-corporate within this kingdome, That they doe carefully see this our orders to be put in due execution, as they will answer their contempt to the contrarie at their uttermost perils, and whereof Wee will require a due and strict account at their hands: And that they doe likewise certifie vs of all their proceedings touching the erection of the said houses of Correction, and rapping stocks for the same, at or before the first of October next ensuing the date hereof at the furthest. Given at his Most Excellent Castile of Dublin the 24. day of August. 1625. In the yeare of the Reigne of our Soueraigne Lord, King Charles of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, the first.

Adam Loftus Cane.

Tob. Caulfield.



Rich. Powerscourt.

Henry Docwra.

Charles Wilmot.

God saue the King.

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Most Excellent Maiestie, Anno Domini, M. DC. XXV.